

Name: Paul Read

Organisation: Freelance Chef

School experience: North Doncaster Technical College

Chef Paul Read attended the Effective Partnership for Employers training programme which prepared him for going into the classroom to share his experience and expertise with hospitality and catering students.

The 58-year-old freelance chef said the programme, which is part of the DE4L project, taught him about Doncaster's education network and gave him a good understanding of the current and future needs of students and school leavers.

He said: "This is a well constructed programme covering all aspects of introducing me directly to the potential workforce of the future. Not only did I learn all I needed, but enjoyed it too."

As a result Paul has been in demand at North Doncaster Technical College where he has completed a number of sessions and projects with GCSE students.

He says things have changed a lot since he was at college: "Vocationally schools and colleges are so much better equipped than I can remember. With the recent and ongoing investment in education and the freedom to bring in specialists to use all their new facilities, we've never had it so good!"

Trained at Hull College of Further Education and with experience in all sorts of catering including head chef at a major hotel, Paul went freelance in 2005 and develops new recipes for fish, vegetable and meat producers. He also runs his own catering company, Blue Sky NPD.

"From my point of view I thoroughly enjoyed passing on my skills to such a receptive audience and as a freelance chef, it has moved my own business forward."

He also thinks that the training puts him in an enviable position as an employer: "With the help of the Effective Partnership for Employers, working with schools can become a reality. It also helps businesses pick the most suitable employees - a real 'win win' situation."